

# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ADOPTION WORK GROUP AIMS TO SHORTEN ‘PROCEDURAL LIMBO’ FOR CHILDREN**

LANSING, MI, April 30, 2003 – A work group convened by Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan in cooperation with Family Independence Agency Director Nanette Bowler is studying ways to improve the adoption process in Michigan, Corrigan announced today.

The announcement came at a rally of the Michigan Foster and Adoptive Parent Association at the state Capitol this afternoon.

“We know that our courts can do more to shorten the time that these children spend in procedural limbo,” Corrigan told an audience of foster parents, adoptive parents, and guardians. “We know that the children want and need permanent, stable homes. They and we don’t want the process to be strung out.”

Corrigan said that the work group will provide “concrete suggestions” to improve the adoption process. The work group is co-chaired by retired Probate Judge Donna Morris of Midland and Judge Karen Tighe, Chief Judge of Bay County Probate Court.

Other work group members include:

- Judge Susan Dobrich, Chief Judge, Cass County Probate Court;
- Judge Mary Beth Kelly, Co-Chief Judge, Wayne County Circuit Court;
- Judge Susan Reck, Chief Judge, Livingston County Probate Court;
- Jean Hoffman, Director, Office of Child and Family, Family Independence Agency; and
- Donna Mullins, Deputy Director of Service Delivery, Family Independence Agency.

“It’s a real blue-ribbon work group,” Corrigan said. “I hope that the work group will be just the first step in a cooperative effort between the Court and the Family Independence Agency: to not only comply with permanency planning guidelines, but to increase awareness of all the Michigan children who are available for adoption.”